

# Proactive Release

Published on or before: 13/05/2026

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – April 2026</i></b>	CAB-26-MIN-0091
<b><i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – April 2026</i></b>	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – April 2026

Portfolio                      Foreign Affairs

On 30 March 2026, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 6 to 10 April 2026, to travel to Washington DC, United States of America for meetings with Secretary of State Rubio and other senior United States figures;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up \$57,901.50 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 5.2      Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing;
  - 5.3      Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Rail;
- 6        **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Chair, Cabinet

**Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – April 2026**

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to undertake official travel to Washington D.C. departing on 6 April and arriving back in New Zealand on 10 April, to meet US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other senior US figures.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought.

**Purpose of Travel**

- 3 The United States remains an essential partner for New Zealand. Its actions significantly affect our security and prosperity and it is important to our national interest that we maintain appropriate senior level connections.

**Outline of Proposed Visit**

- 4 Secretary of State Marco Rubio has offered a meeting on 7 April. This would be our second in-person meeting with Secretary Rubio, following a meeting in March 2025.
- 5 In addition to meeting Secretary of State Rubio, meetings are being sought with:
  - 5.1 Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau
  - 5.2 As available, meetings with US Members of Congress, from both sides of the aisle
  - 5.3 Other senior US political contacts
- 6 The key visit objectives are:
  - 6.1 to support bilateral relationship interests. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
  - 6.2
  - 6.3 to discuss international issues, including the Iran conflict and New Zealand interests.

## Ministerial Party

- 7 If travel is approved, we will be accompanied for the entire visit by our Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Senior Press Secretary. Our costs will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 8 There is intense media scrutiny on the Trump Administration's approach to global affairs, and how New Zealand is responding to this. Accordingly, we expect this visit to be closely followed by New Zealand media, making a dedicated press secretary necessary.
- 9 The Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor who is seconded to our office from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Bede Corry will accompany the delegation. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

## Travel Costs

The estimated costs of the travel is outlined below:

Airfares:	\$47,179.65
Accommodation:	\$ 7,064.64
Gifts and meals:	\$ 900.00
Contingency (5%)	\$2,757.21
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$57,901.50</b>

## Acting Ministers

- 10 For the duration of this travel, Hon Todd McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio, Hon Shane Jones will cover the racing portfolio, and Hon Simeon Brown will cover the rail portfolio.

## Proactive release

- 11 It is proposed to release this paper proactively, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

## Recommendations

- 1 We recommend that Cabinet:
  - 1.1 authorise our absence from New Zealand from 6 April to 10 April to travel to Washington D.C. for meetings with Secretary of State Rubio and other senior US figures;
  - 1.2 agree that we be accompanied by two members of staff;

- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$57,901.50 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.4 note that we will be accompanied by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade and our Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor, whose travel costs will be a charge to Vote: Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 1.5 agree that in our absence:
  - 1.5.1 Hon Todd McClay would act as the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 1.5.2 Hon Shane Jones would act as the Minister for Racing;
  - 1.5.3 Hon Simeon Brown would act as the Minister for Rail;
- 1.6 note that the House is not sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs